

GETTING READY FOR 60X30TX: INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM STRATEGIES THAT ENGAGE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

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BECOMING A STUDENT- READY COLLEGE



A NEW **CULTURE OF LEADERSHIP**
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



BECOMING



MICHELLE OBAMA



higher education and first-generation students

cultivating community, voice,
and place for the new majority



rashné rustom jehangir



CENTER FOR FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT SUCCESS

AN INITIATIVE OF NASPA AND THE SUDER FOUNDATION



60x30TX



60 percent of "Generation Texas" will have a postsecondary credential or degree by 2030

STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

- Strong sense of pride
- Independent and self-reliant (which may lead to delays in seeking support)
- Persistence, tenacity, high motivation
- Resiliency
- Multi-lingual/code-switching
- Resourceful



NEEDS:

Institutional Culture Promoting:

- Acceptance
- Empowerment
- Advocacy

~Dr. Dorothy Ward, University of Texas, El Paso

ACCEPTANCE

- Foster opportunities for first-gen students to develop a **sense of belonging**
- Provide programs and spaces that allow first-gen students opportunities to develop meaningful networks
- Offer programs that provide first-gen students targeted support in a timely manner

EMPOWERMENT

- Take a holistic view of first-gen students and help them develop an awareness of their **strengths**
- Provide opportunities for first-gen students to become involved in and out of the classroom
- Respect and value the first-gen students' experiences and knowledge

ADVOCACY

- Develop policies and programs that support the institution's first-gen students
- Reduce barriers resulting from lack of information, cost of participation, or inflexible/inconvenient hours

HOW IS UTSA DOING?



**JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR WAS A FIRST-GENERATION
COLLEGE STUDENT, LIKE MANY STUDENTS AT UTSA.**

INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE:

- Acceptance
- Empowerment
- Advocacy
- Academic Department
- College/Division
- University as a whole

HIDDEN CURRICULUM

RULES, BEHAVIORS AND EXPECTATIONS
THAT ONE IS EXPECTED TO KNOW BUT
NOT TAUGHT EXPLICITLY; THESE INCLUDE
UNWRITTEN, UNOFFICIAL,
OFTEN UNINTENDED LESSONS

“I think if you make the nuts and bolts of what you are asking not just transparent but something you come up with as a group in class, there’s more awareness that first gen-ers already have the skills they need (so less self-doubt) and more clarity on what can seem like invisible norms and rules they haven’t been let in on at home or in high school, necessarily. So the class is less like a club you are joining late and more like a game we are all learning to play and helping to shape/name the rules.”

~Samantha Pinto, Assoc Prof, Georgetown University

**I DON'T ALWAYS IGNORE
YOUR EMAILS**



**BUT WHEN I DO IT'S
BECAUSE THE ANSWER
IS IN THE SYLLABUS.**

SYLLABUS AS A TOOL OF EMPOWERMENT

- Explain acronyms
- Include mental health/wellness resources
- Allow for dialogue and negotiation
- Perhaps some parts are fluid and not fixed

BUILD COMMUNITY, NOT COMPETITION



- Achieving a personal relationship with a faculty member is one of the strongest markers for academic success but ...
- Many first-generation college students avoid social interaction with faculty (relationship may be strictly transactional)

OFFICE HOURS

- Clarify expectations and purpose
- Make them mandatory for smaller classes
- Offer virtual or phone hours
- Other forms of social media



SPEAKING IN CLASS

“School isn’t for talking—it’s for listening.”

-- SJ Culver

- Share in pairs
- Cold call ...
- Or let students know when you are going to call on them
- Free write before discussion
- Reward questions!

LEARNING COMMUNITIES



- Honor the family's intellect, cultural background and work experience
- Encourage students to discuss assignments, projects and goals with family members





F
T
G

THAT'S MY MENTOR!

THAT'S MY MENTEE!

[← Messages](#)

Chris

[Contact](#)

So I'm planning on getting a tattoo today and I just wanna make sure the quote is in correct grammar and it's not gonna end up on a fail page on fb. The quote

is " I'd Rather Choke On Blood Than Swallow My Pride" I wanted to make sure it's "Than" and not Then

That is correct. Lol

Sweet thanks

Sun, Jun 28, 12:12 PM

By the way, this text has totally made my day

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- Vary the way knowledge is delivered, e.g., reading, video, online/flipped courses
- Group projects
- Peer review and workshops
- Form study groups
- Incorporate social media into curriculum

MORE SUGGESTIONS . . .

- Transparency for assignments, ask yourself:
 - Task: *What* do I want students to do?
 - Purpose: *Why* am I asking students to do this?
 - Criteria: *How* will I evaluate their work? (Use Rubrics!)
- State how to best study for particular assignments and types of content



INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

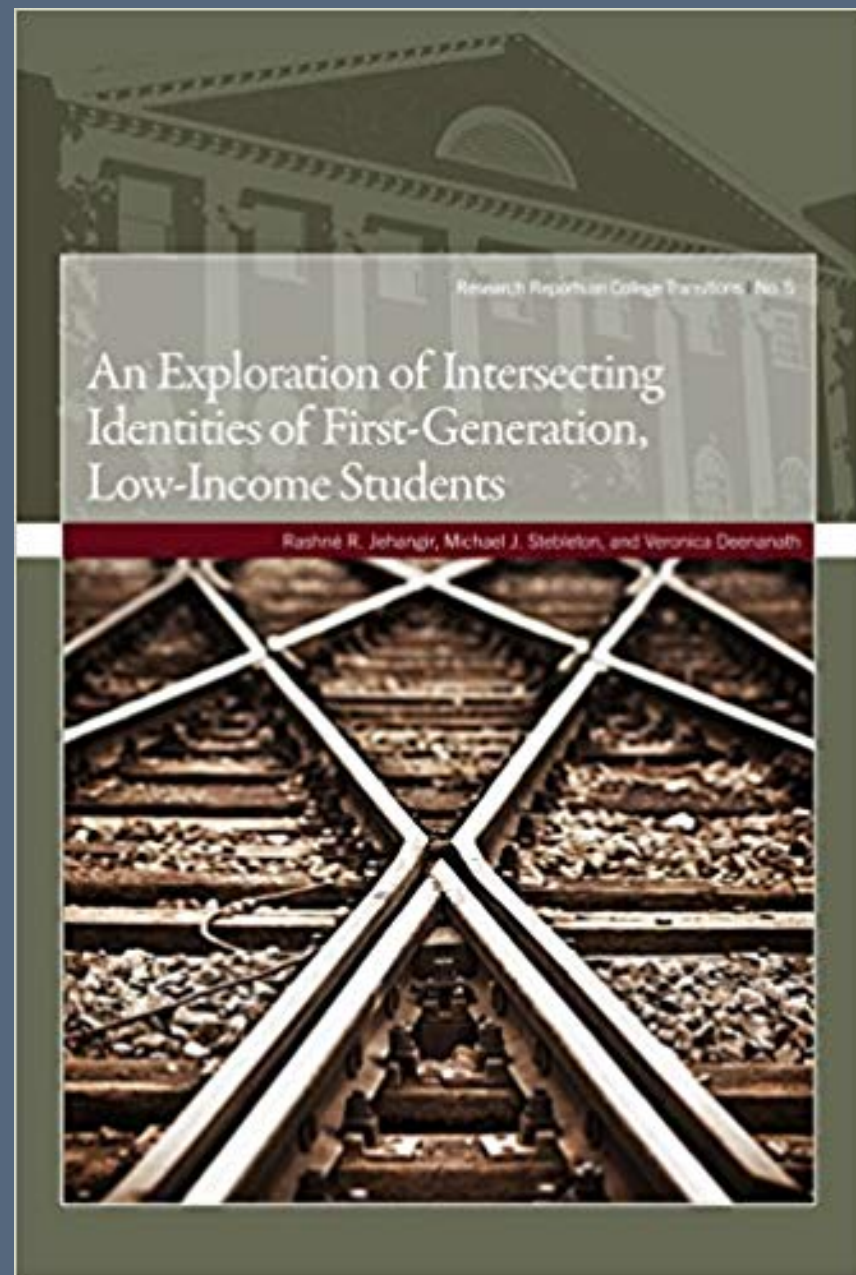
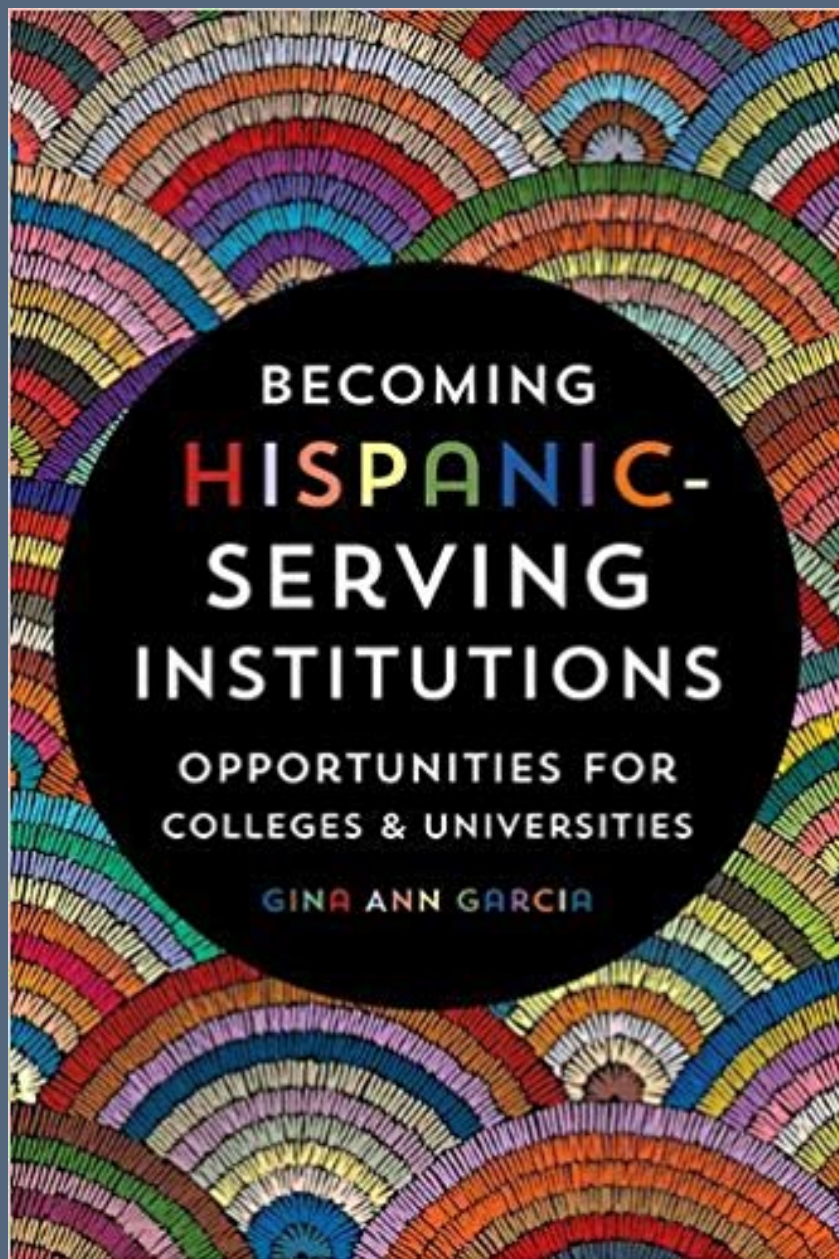
Please identify ...

- One pedagogical practice you utilize that is first-gen affirming/responsive?

SMALL GROUP TIME

Please identify and discuss ...

- one strategy or on-campus resource or plan to transform deficit practice to one that is first-gen affirming/responsive?



THANK YOU!

- lreasemiles@ori.ucla.edu
- Facebook group: **Empowering First-Generation College Students**